



NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release
March 1, 2005**

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS CHARGES

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . DAVID EARL STANLEY, age 53, from Carlyss, Louisiana, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi to being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and ATF Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait. STANLEY was indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2004.

According to factual stipulations filed into the court records, an agent with the Lake Charles Police Department received an anonymous tip in May 2004 regarding a convicted felon being in possession of firearms. A search warrant of STANLEY's residence and vehicle revealed three several weapons, including a 9mm pistol, a 12-gauge shotgun, and a Marlin .22 rifle. Officers also found ammunition in the vehicle and in the residence.

STANLEY has one prior felony convictions in California, one prior felony conviction in Arizona, and one prior felony conviction in Texas. It is unlawful for a convicted felon to be in possession of firearms and/or ammunition.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the court. STANLEY faces a term of imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of up to \$250,000 and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lake Charles Police Department, and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James T. McManus.

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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